

## Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 IGA-02  
OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 L-03 MCE-00 /037 W  
-----055980 200141Z /13  
R 190930Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1828  
INFO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 0491

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS, MY  
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE FUTURE FMS PURCHASES BY MALAYSIA

REFS: A) 77 KUALA LUMPUR 8608  
B) 77 KUALA LUMPUR 9551  
C) 77 KUALA LUMPUR 4486

1. CHAIRMAN LESTER WOLFF TOLD ME BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE THAT  
PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN ONN MENTIONED TO HIM AT LUNCHEON THAT  
THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH US SOON ON  
THE SUBJECT OF FMS.

2. DURING A RECENT DINNER CONVERSATION, DEPUTY DEFENSE  
MINISTER MOKHTAR HASHIM INQUIRED WHAT OUR CURRENT FMS POLICY  
WAS. I NOTED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAD PLACED CEILINGS ON  
ARMS TRANSFERS AND THAT I ANTICIPATED FMS LEVELS FOR  
COUNTRIES LIKE MALAYSIA WERE LIKELY TO GO DOWN IN THE FUTURE.  
HOWEVER, I SAID THAT SINCE I HAD BEEN HERE (SEVEN MONTHS)  
I HAD NOT HEARD ANY DEFINITE STATEMENT OF GOM DESIRES REGARDING  
FUTURE FMS PURCHASES. MOKHTAR THEN SAID THAT HIS MINISTRY  
WAS GIVING SERIOUS STUDY TO FUTURE AIRCRAFT AND PILOT  
TRAINING NEEDS, AS WELL AS TO UPGRADING ITS ARTILLERY.  
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HE SAID THAT THERE WAS DISCUSSION WITHIN THE MINISTRY AS  
TO WHETHER F-5 INTERCEPTOR AIRCRAFT WERE AN APPROPRIATE  
WEAPONS SYSTEM FOR MALAYSIA, PARTICULARLY WHEN THEIR AIR  
SURVEILLANCE (RADAR) SYSTEM REACHED OUT ONLY 100 MILES.  
THEY WERE THINKING THAT PERHAPS AN AIR-TO-GROUND AIRCRAFT,  
SUCH AS THE A-4, WOULD BE BETTER FOR THEIR PARTICULAR  
SITUATION. MOKHTAR ALSO SAID THAT THEY WERE WEIGHING THE

POSSIBILITY OF TRAINING SEVERAL PILOTS A YEAR IN THE UNITED STATES. REGARDING ARTILLERY, THEY WERE CONSIDERING THE U.S. 135 MILIMETER HOWITZER AND ALSO A BRITISH MODEL.

3. IN RESPONSE TO MY INQUIRY AS TO WHETHER THE MALAYSIAN AUTHORITIES WERE THINKING IN TERMS OF FMS CREDIT OR FMS CASH PURCHASES, MOKHTAR SAID HE THOUGH THEY WOULD PREFER FMS CASH PURCHASES. HE SAID THEIR THINKING WAS INFLUENCED BY THE NORTHROP INVESTIGATION, AND BY THEIR DESIRE TO MAKE PURCHASES ON A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT BASIS WITHOUT COMMERCIAL AGENT INTERMEDIARIES.

4. I ASKED WHEN HE THOUGHT THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT'S THINKING WOULD CRYSTALLIZE ON THESE MATTERS. HE SAID THAT HE WAS BEING PRESSED FOR A DECISION WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK OR SO ON ARTILLERY, AND HE THOUGHT THAT THEY WOULD SORT THEMSELVES OUT ON AIRCRAFT AND AIR DEFENSE QUESTIONS WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH OR TWO.

5. COMMENT: IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE GOM AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS IS THINKING SERIOUSLY OF CONTINUING A FMS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE USG BEYOND CURRENT PROGRAMS, BUT PROBABLY MORE IN TERMS OF CAHS RATHER THAN CREDIT PURCHASES. WE WILL OBVIOUSLY NEED MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION FROM THE MALAYSIANS IF AND AS THEIR THINKING CRYSTALLIZES. UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE, I DO NOT INTEND TO DISCOURAGE THEIR  
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INTEREST IN NEW FMS PURCHASES.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** POSSIBLE FUTURE FMS PURCHASES BY MALAYSIA  
**TAGS:** MASS, MY  
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